



# USDA EGG MARKET NEWS REPORT

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## NATIONAL EGG MARKET AT-A-GLANCE



In New York, prices were unchanged on all weights when compared to Friday's report. Elsewhere, weekly prices were higher on the larger sizes and unchanged to higher on medium. The market tone was generally steady entering the week. Demand was light to very good, best into retail outlets. Supplies were balanced to adequate on the larger sizes and usually fully sufficient on mediums. Breaking stock offerings were short to adequate for the light demand. Light type fowl were about sufficient to adequate for the moderate demand.

PRICES TO RETAILERS, SALES TO VOLUME BUYERS, USDA GRADE A AND GRADE A, WHITE EGGS IN CARTONS, DELIVERED WAREHOUSE, CENTS PER DOZEN.

**MIDWEST REGIONAL** Prices were unchanged to producers in IA/MN/WI with the balance of prices higher. Trade sentiment was steady. Cartoned egg demand was fairly good to mostly good with institutional movement mostly light to instances moderate. Supplies were balanced for current needs. Central States breaking stock prices were unchanged. Demand was very light to light as breakers work from existing inventories while industrial users were taking extended time off for the holidays. Schedules reduced. Trade sentiment steady.

|             | RANGE | MOSTLY | IA-MN-WI-Prices paid to producers   |  |       |        |       |       |    |        |       |    |       |       |  |  |
|-------------|-------|--------|---|--|-------|--------|-------|-------|----|--------|-------|----|-------|-------|--|--|
| EXTRA LARGE | 77-86 | 80-83  |   |  |       |        |       |       |    |        |       |    |       |       |  |  |
| LARGE       | 76-85 | 78-87  |   |  |       |        |       |       |    |        |       |    |       |       |  |  |
| MEDIUM      | 47-56 | 49-52  |   |  |       |        |       |       |    |        |       |    |       |       |  |  |
|             |       |        | <table><tr><th></th><th>RANGE</th><th>MOSTLY</th></tr><tr><td>LARGE</td><td>58-67</td><td>62</td></tr><tr><td>MEDIUM</td><td>29-35</td><td>33</td></tr><tr><td>SMALL</td><td>18-22</td><td></td></tr></table> |  | RANGE | MOSTLY | LARGE | 58-67 | 62 | MEDIUM | 29-35 | 33 | SMALL | 18-22 |  |  |
|             | RANGE | MOSTLY |   |  |       |        |       |       |    |        |       |    |       |       |  |  |
| LARGE       | 58-67 | 62     |   |  |       |        |       |       |    |        |       |    |       |       |  |  |
| MEDIUM      | 29-35 | 33     |   |  |       |        |       |       |    |        |       |    |       |       |  |  |
| SMALL       | 18-22 |        |   |  |       |        |       |       |    |        |       |    |       |       |  |  |

MIDWEST AREA: IA, IL, IN, KY, MI, MN, OH, NE, ND, SD, WI, WV, Western NY, and Western PA

**NORTHEAST REGIONAL** Prices were higher on the larger sizes and unchanged on mediums when compared to last week's values. Trade sentiment was steady entering the week. Demand ranged light to good, best into retail channels. Supplies were adequate to fully adequate for immediate trade needs. Breaking stock offerings were short to adequate for the fair demand. Spent hens were about sufficient to sufficient for the at least moderate demand.

| RANGE       | MOSTLY       |
|-------------|--------------|
| EXTRA LARGE | 86-100 86-89 |
| LARGE       | 80-94 85-89  |
| MEDIUM      | 53-66 58-60  |

NORTHEAST AREA: CT, DC, DE, MA, MD, ME, NH, eastern NJ, eastern NY, PA, RI, Northern VA, and VT

**SOUTH CENTRAL REGIONAL** Extra large prices increased 7 cents, large up 6 cents, mediums unchanged. Trade sentiment was generally steady. Retail movement generally good. Food service movement was light to moderate. Supplies were adequate for the larger sizes and fully adequate for mediums. Central states breaking stock prices were unchanged. Demand was light as most breakers work from existing inventories as many end users take an extended holiday break. Floor stocks adequate to closely balanced. Schedules reduced. Trade sentiment steady.

|             | RANGE   | MOSTLY |
|-------------|---------|--------|
| EXTRA LARGE | 88.5-97 | 90-93  |
| LARGE       | 86.5-95 | 88-91  |
| MEDIUM      | 54.5-63 | 56-59  |

SOUTH CENTRAL AREA: AR, AZ, CO, KS, LA, MO, NM, OK, and TX

**SOUTHEAST REGIONAL** Prices were higher on the larger sizes and unchanged on mediums when compared to the previous week. The market tone was steady beginning the week. Demand was usually good at retail outlets. Supplies were balanced to at times sufficient on the larger sizes and fully adequate on mediums. Breaking stock offerings were short to sufficient for a fair but unaggressive demand. Light type fowl were about adequate to sufficient for the moderate demand.

|             | RANGE    | MOSTLY |
|-------------|----------|--------|
| EXTRA LARGE | 84.25-95 | 89-92  |
| LARGE       | 81.5-93  | 87-90  |
| MEDIUM      | 55.5-63  | 56-60  |

SOUTHEAST AREA: AL, FL, GA, MS, NC, SC, eastern TN, and southern VA

PRICES TO RETAILERS, SALES TO VOLUME BUYERS, USDA GRADE A AND GRADE A, WHITE EGGS IN CARTONS, DELIVERED STORE DOOR, CENTS PER DOZEN.

**NEW YORK** Prices were unchanged on all sizes when compared to Friday's report. Trade sentiment was steady entering the week. Retail and distributive demand was moderate to good. Supplies were adequate to fully adequate for current trade requirements.

|             | RANGE |
|-------------|-------|
| EXTRA LARGE | 94-98 |
| LARGE       | 92-96 |
| MEDIUM      | 65-69 |

## MIDWEST REGIONAL

|             | RANGE | MOSTLY |
|-------------|-------|--------|
| EXTRA LARGE | 84-92 | 85-87  |
| LARGE       | 82-90 | 83-85  |
| MEDIUM      | 53-61 | 54-56  |

see page 3 for prices on certified organic eggs in cartons

**WESTERN** Prices 7 cents higher on jumbo, extra large, and large; 2 cents higher on medium. The Pacific region inventory was 20% lower than last week with California down 29% and Oregon-Washington-Utah up 5%. Retailer demand fairly good. Offerings irregular.

**CALIFORNIA** Prices 7 cents higher on jumbo, extra large, and large, 2 cents higher on medium and small. The California inventory was 29% lower than last week. Retailer demand fairly good. Offerings about adequate. Small benchmark price 75.

Shell egg marketer's benchmark price for negotiated egg sales of USDA Grade AA and Grade AA in cartons, cents per dozen. This price does not reflect discounts or other contract terms.

|             | RANGE |
|-------------|-------|
| JUMBO       | 134   |
| EXTRA LARGE | 130   |
| LARGE       | 123   |
| MEDIUM      | 95    |

PRICES TO CONSUMERS MAJOR CHAINS, METROPOLITAN AREA, USDA GRADE AA AND GRADE AA, WHITE EGGS IN CARTONS, CENTS PER DOZEN.

|             | RANGE   |             | RANGE     |
|-------------|---------|-------------|-----------|
| JUMBO       | 259-329 | JUMBO       |           |
| EXTRA LARGE | 239-309 | EXTRA LARGE | Not       |
| LARGE       | 199-229 | LARGE       | Available |
| MEDIUM      | 189-199 | MEDIUM      |           |

**NATIONAL RETAIL EGG PURCHASES REPORT** Cooperators estimate orders for the week ending December 30, 2005 will decrease by 34 percent. Present week purchases for the week ending December 23, 2005 were 372,623 cases which was 7 percent above the prior week and 6 percent above estimates.

|                                   | CARTONED | LOOSE  | TOTAL   |
|-----------------------------------|----------|--------|---------|
| Cases purchased present week..... | 324,133  | 48,490 | 372,623 |
| % change from the prior week..... | +7       | +3     | +7      |

Comparison figures are compiled on a matched plant basis. Purchases and estimates by 14 cooperators; 30 dozen cases or equivalent.

**CENTRAL STATES BREAKING STOCK** Prices were unchanged. Demand was very light to light as breakers work from existing inventories as many of their customers take extended time off during the holidays. Offerings were light. Floor stocks balanced to adequate. Schedules reduced. Trade sentiment steady.

Prices in cents per dozen, delivered to breakers, 48 lb. minimum net weight per 30 dozen case, eggs from table egg layers. Packaging may vary.

|                      | RANGE | MOSTLY |
|----------------------|-------|--------|
| CHECKS & UNDERGRADES | 21-25 | 21-23  |
| BREAKING STOCK       | 34-37 |        |

AR,CO,IA,IL,IN,KS,LA,MI,MN,MO,NM,ND,NE,OH,OK,SD,TX,WI

**SOUTH CENTRAL HEAVY LIVE HEN** Trading levels were generally unchanged compared to the past week. Demand was moderate for adequate offerings of spent heavy hens. Finished sales had slowed and were fair at best. Schedules were reduced. Trade sentiment was about steady.

HEAVY TYPE HENS (7 POUNDS AND UP)\*  
FINAL PRICE, GENERALLY FOR SLAUGHTER THE WEEK OF  
26-DEC-05

|                       | RANGE            | MAJORITY | WTD<br>AVG |
|-----------------------|------------------|----------|------------|
| AT FARM BUYER LOADING | 9-15.5 CENTS/LB. | 11-13    | 12.33      |

\*WEIGHTS UNDER 7 LBS. SUBJECT TO DISCOUNT.

**SOUTHEAST LIVE HEAVY HEN** Majority prices were unchanged when compared to a week earlier. Demand was fair to moderate for the mostly adequate offerings. Processing schedules were reduced due to the holiday. Sales of finished product were fair to fairly good. The undertone was steady to at least steady.

HEAVY TYPE HENS (7 POUNDS AND UP)\*  
FINAL PRICE, GENERALLY FOR SLAUGHTER THE WEEK OF  
26-DEC-05

|                          | RANGE                | MAJORITY | WTD<br>AVG |
|--------------------------|----------------------|----------|------------|
| AT FARM BUYER LOADING    | 9.75-15.25 CENTS/LB. | 12-13    | 12.53      |
| AT FARM PRODUCER LOADING | TOO FEW TO REPORT    |          |            |
| FOB PLANT                | TOO FEW TO REPORT    |          |            |

\* WEIGHTS UNDER 7 LBS. SUBJECT TO DISCOUNT.

# WEEKLY SHELL EGG INVENTORY REPORT- DECEMBER 26, 2005

STOCKS ON HAND AVAILABLE FOR MARKETING 1/  
(30 DOZEN CASES-IN THOUSANDS)

|                  |         | NO        |       | SO    |       | 5-Area  |       |
|------------------|---------|-----------|-------|-------|-------|---------|-------|
|                  |         | Northeast | CENT  | CENT  | Atl   | Pacific |       |
| Jumbo            | Curr Wk | 8.2       | 12.7  | 7.1   | 13.4  | 11.2    | 52.6  |
|                  | Change  | -2.1      | -1.1  | -0.2  | 0.0   | -1.1    | -8%   |
| Ex Lge           | Curr Wk | 18.2      | 41.3  | 10.2  | 21.4  | 28.6    | 119.7 |
|                  | Change  | -4.4      | 10.9  | 2.0   | -0.9  | -9.9    | -2%   |
| Large            | Curr Wk | 29.3      | 114.0 | 57.5  | 85.0  | 75.5    | 361.3 |
|                  | Change  | -10.3     | 26.9  | 2.1   | -6.9  | -31.5   | -5%   |
| Medium           | Curr Wk | 13.1      | 59.2  | 13.2  | 15.4  | 28.2    | 129.1 |
|                  | Change  | 0.5       | 3.7   | -0.9  | -1.0  | -4.0    | -1%   |
| Small            | Curr Wk | 4.2       | 12.0  | 0.7   | 3.9   | 2.1     | 22.9  |
|                  | Change  | -0.1      | 3.5   | 0.0   | -0.2  | -0.4    | 14%   |
| Misc             | Curr Wk | 3.2       | 30.4  | 10.8  | 12.9  | 5.8     | 63.1  |
|                  | Change  | 0.2       | -4.8  | -1.7  | -2.3  | 1.7     | -10%  |
| Ungraded         | Curr Wk | 9.9       | 38.9  | 27.4  | 27.7  | 25.2    | 129.1 |
|                  | Change  | -0.1      | 11.3  | 4.4   | 6.2   | 1.2     | 22%   |
| Total<br>Percent | Curr Wk | 86.1      | 308.5 | 126.9 | 179.7 | 176.6   | 877.8 |
|                  | Change  | -16%      | 20%   | 5%    | -3%   | -20%    | -1%   |

| TOTAL                    | Number of<br>Cases | Percent<br>Change | Number of<br>Cooperators |
|--------------------------|--------------------|-------------------|--------------------------|
| Shell Egg                | 877.8              | -1%               | 169                      |
| Shell Egg Breaking Stock | 201.1              | 12%               | 35                       |
| Total Shell Egg          | 1078.9             | 1%                | 204                      |

1/ Information supplied by a universe of 169 cooperators who normally have stocks on hand each Monday a.m. and is on the basis of matched plants reporting in both the current and previous weeks. This is a representative sample of the U.S. inventory and includes eggs packed for export when in cooperator's coolers.

No valid comparison can be made with year ago or previous months' figures due to changes in number of plants surveyed, holidays falling in different weeks or changes in size of plant operations.

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Northeast- CT, DE, MA, MD, ME, NH, NJ, NY, PA, RI, VT  
North Central - IA, IL, IN, MI, MN, ND, NE, OH, SD, WI  
South Central - AR, CO, KS, LA, MO, NM, OK, TX  
South Atlantic - AL, FL, GA, KY, MS, NC, SC, TN, VA, WV  
Pacific- AZ, CA, ID, MT, NV, OR, UT, WA, WY

**CANADIAN EGGS** QUEBEC/MONTREAL: WHOLESALE PRICES- GRADED IN CARTONS (CANADIAN DOLLARS) AS REPORTED BY AGRICULTURE AND AGRI-FOOD CANADA, AISD, AID, POULTRY SECTION FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 12, 2005

| GRADEA | XLARGE | LARGE | MEDIUM | SMALL |
|--------|--------|-------|--------|-------|
|        | 1.88   | 1.85  | 1.76   | 1.16  |

MINIMUM PRICES FOR PRODUCERS FOB FARM FOR WEEK OF DECEMBER 12, 2005 AS SET BY ONTARIO EGG PRODUCERS.

| GRADEA | XLARGE | LARGE | MEDIUM | SMALL |
|--------|--------|-------|--------|-------|
|        | 1.42   | 1.42  | 1.32   | .77   |

**TRAILER LOAD EGG SALES** — DAILY WTD AVE PRICES (CENTS/DOZ) NATIONAL TRADING FOR DECEMBER 23, 2005

| CURRENT LOADS |       |     |       |       |       |     | 17.50 |         | FUTURE LOADS |       |       |     |       |       |       | 12.25   |       | TOTAL LOADS |       |     |       |       |      |         | 29.75 |       |      |
|---------------|-------|-----|-------|-------|-------|-----|-------|---------|--------------|-------|-------|-----|-------|-------|-------|---------|-------|-------------|-------|-----|-------|-------|------|---------|-------|-------|------|
| SE            |       |     | NE    |       | MW    |     |       |         | SC           |       |       | NW  |       | SW    |       |         |       |             |       |     |       |       |      |         |       |       |      |
| CLASS         | ORG   | DST | ORG   | DST   | ORG   | DST | LOADS | CLASS   | ORG          | DST   | ORG   | DST | ORG   | DST   | LOADS | CLASS   | ORG   | DST         | ORG   | DST | LOADS | CLASS | ORG  | DST     | LOADS |       |      |
| GNR W 1       | 65.50 | —   | 67.50 | 68.50 | —     | —   | 3.00  | GNR W 1 | —            | —     | —     | —   | —     | —     | 1.00  | GNR W 1 | —     | —           | —     | —   | —     | —     | —    | —       | 1.00  |       |      |
| GNR W 4       | —     | —   | —     | 30.00 | 24.63 | —   | 2.00  | GL W XL | —            | 72.00 | —     | —   | 76.00 | 80.00 | 2.00  | GL W XL | —     | 72.00       | —     | —   | 76.00 | 80.00 | 2.00 | GL W XL | —     | 72.00 | 2.00 |
| GL W XL       | —     | —   | 79.00 | 76.00 | 64.00 | —   | 3.00  | GL W LG | 80.75        | —     | —     | —   | 75.00 | 80.42 | 6.00  | GL W LG | 80.75 | —           | —     | —   | 75.00 | 80.42 | 6.00 | GL W LG | 80.75 | —     | 6.00 |
| GL W LG       | —     | —   | —     | —     | 60.00 | —   | 2.00  | GL W MD | 38.00        | —     | 38.00 | —   | —     | 43.29 | 3.50  | GL W MD | 38.00 | —           | 38.00 | —   | —     | 43.29 | 3.50 | GL W MD | 38.00 | —     | 3.50 |
| GL W MD       | —     | —   | —     | —     | —     | —   | 2.25  |         |              |       |       |     |       |       |       |         |       |             |       |     |       |       |      |         |       |       |      |
| NRBS - 48     | —     | —   | —     | —     | —     | —   | 8.00  |         |              |       |       |     |       |       |       |         |       |             |       |     |       |       |      |         |       |       |      |

**TRAILER LOAD EGG SALES** — WEEKLY (5-DAY) WTD AVE PRICES (CENTS/DOZ) NATIONAL TRADING FOR 12/19/05-12/23/05

| CURRENT LOADS 67.00 |       |       |       |       |       |       |       | FUTURE LOADS 47.50 |       |       |       | TOTAL LOADS 114.50 |       |       |       |  |  |
|---------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|--------------------|-------|-------|-------|--------------------|-------|-------|-------|--|--|
| SE                  |       | NE    |       | MW    |       |       |       | SC                 |       | NW    |       | SW                 |       |       |       |  |  |
| CLASS               | ORG   | DST   | ORG   | DST   | ORG   | DST   | LOADS | CLASS              | ORG   | DST   | ORG   | DST                | ORG   | DST   | LOADS |  |  |
| GNR W 1             | 63.00 | 66.89 | 63.67 | 65.92 | 63.19 | 63.00 | 34.00 | GNR W 1            | —     | 75.00 | —     | —                  | —     | 81.50 | 6.00  |  |  |
| GNR W 4             | —     | —     | —     | 30.00 | 24.63 | —     | 2.00  | GL W J             | 66.00 | —     | —     | —                  | —     | 76.50 | 2.00  |  |  |
| GNR BR 1            | —     | 83.00 | —     | —     | —     | —     | 1.00  | GL W XL            | —     | 73.75 | —     | —                  | 76.00 | 79.00 | 7.00  |  |  |
| GL W J              | —     | —     | —     | —     | 58.00 | —     | 1.00  | GL W LG            | 77.45 | 79.75 | —     | 89.50              | 73.33 | 80.32 | 22.00 |  |  |
| GL W XL             | —     | 71.00 | 79.00 | 78.17 | 63.93 | 68.25 | 28.00 | GL W MD            | 37.94 | —     | 37.43 | 49.00              | —     | 43.80 | 11.00 |  |  |
| GL W LG             | 65.00 | 77.00 | 69.00 | 74.27 | 58.00 | 71.68 | 17.25 | GL W SM            | —     | —     | —     | —                  | —     | 40.50 | 1.00  |  |  |
| GL W MD             | 52.00 | 49.60 | 56.17 | 50.48 | 36.60 | 38.67 | 20.25 | GL BR J            | —     | —     | —     | —                  | —     | —     | .25   |  |  |
| GL W SM             | 38.00 | —     | 35.50 | 39.00 | —     | —     | 3.00  | GL BR XL           | —     | —     | —     | —                  | —     | —     | .50   |  |  |
| GL BR J             | —     | —     | —     | —     | 99.00 | —     | .25   | GL BR LG           | —     | —     | —     | —                  | —     | —     | .75   |  |  |
| GL BR XL            | —     | —     | —     | —     | 97.00 | —     | .50   |                    |       |       |       |                    |       |       |       |  |  |
| GL BR LG            | —     | —     | —     | —     | 96.00 | —     | .75   |                    |       |       |       |                    |       |       |       |  |  |
| NRBS - 48           | —     | —     | —     | —     | —     | 37.00 | 22.00 |                    |       |       |       |                    |       |       |       |  |  |
| NRBS - 39           | —     | —     | —     | —     | 15.25 | 19.00 | 2.00  |                    |       |       |       |                    |       |       |       |  |  |

WEIGHTED AVERAGE PRICES ARE LISTED FOR VARIOUS CLASSES PRICED BY ORIGIN AND/OR DESTINATION FOR 6 REGIONS. THE LOADS COLUMN REFLECTS TOTAL LOADS REPORTED AND INCLUDES LOADS WITH PRICES TO BE DETERMINED LATER. NRBS CATEGORIES REPRESENT NET WEIGHT - MATERIAL MAY OR MAY NOT BE INCLUDED.

**COLD STORAGE MOVEMENT-FROZEN EGGS** (In Thousands)

| ON HAND       | 12/19/05 | 12/12/05 | 12/20/04 |
|---------------|----------|----------|----------|
| PACIFIC COAST | 112      | 112      | 410      |
| LOS ANGELES   | 107      | 107      | 396      |

**NORTH CAROLINA EGGS** The market had no trend. Supplies are well balanced. Retail demand is good to very good.

PRICES WEIGHTED AVERAGE, IN SMALL LOTS, USDA GRADE A AND GRADE A, WHITE EGGS IN CARTONS, NEARBY RETAIL OUTLET, CENTS PER DOZEN.

**MOSTLY**

|             |        |
|-------------|--------|
| EXTRA LARGE | 103.86 |
| LARGE       | 103.86 |
| MEDIUM      | 73.86  |
| SMALL       | 58.00  |

**CERTIFIED ORGANIC EGGS IN CARTONS**

(price per carton delivered to first receivers)

| Brown Eggs       | CENTS/CARTON | MOSTLY    |
|------------------|--------------|-----------|
| Extra Large doz. | 222 – 260    | 239 - 240 |
| 1/2 doz.         | 120 – 151    | 130 - 134 |
| Large doz.       | 217 – 250    | 225 - 230 |
| 1/2 doz.         | 115 – 142    | 125 - 128 |

**USDA, AMS, POULTRY PROGRAMS, POULTRY MARKET NEWS OFFICES**

|                |       |               |                                   |                |          |               |                     |
|----------------|-------|---------------|-----------------------------------|----------------|----------|---------------|---------------------|
| Washington, DC | Voice | (202)720-6911 | Mike Sheats                       | Des Moines, IA | Voice    | (515)284-4471 | Mary L. Adkins      |
|                | Fax   | (202)720-2403 | (Branch Chief)                    |                | Fax      | (515)284-4468 | (Officer-In-Charge) |
| Atlanta, GA    | Voice | (404)562-5850 | Johnny Freeman                    |                | Recorded | (515)284-4545 |                     |
|                | Fax   | (404)562-5875 | (Officer-In-Charge)               | Long Beach, CA | Voice    | (562)388-7337 | Jim Derby           |
| Jackson, MS    | Voice | (601)965-4662 | Gary Brown                        |                | Fax      | (562)432-8295 | (Officer-In-Charge) |
|                | Fax   | (601)359-1175 | (Southern States Area Supervisor) |                | Recorded | (213)534-1335 |                     |